



## ARIZONA

### In the Beginning

To enable local community cancer organizations and partners nationwide to increase services to cancer patients and their families, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funded the American Psychological Association's Socioeconomic Status Related Cancer Disparities (SESRCDD) Program. One local organization, the Arizona Cancer Coalition, used the funding to award small grants to three programs to support activities emphasizing community partnerships.

The **Asian Pacific Community in Action (APCA)** received funding for a Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander Personal Digital Stories Project among residents in the Phoenix metropolitan area. Native Hawaiian women have the highest rate of uterine cancer in the nation, the second highest rate for all cancers combined, and the second highest rates for cancers of the lung, pancreas, and ovary. They also have the third highest breast cancer death rate.



### CONTACT

#### Arizona Cancer Control Program

150 North 18th Avenue  
Suite 300  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

602-364-0824

<http://www.azdhs.gov/azcancercontrol>

The APCA trained five cancer survivors from the local Chamorro community to write and share their personal digital stories. The stories focused on each survivor's cancer journey and the impact it had on them and their families. The stories were presented to the public and have been placed on the APCA Web site (<http://www.apcaaz.org/women.htm>).

The **Arizona Myeloma Network (AzMN)** received funding for its third annual AzMN/Ft. Defiance Cancer Awareness and Advocacy Conference for the Navajo Nation. Cancer was the second leading cause of death among Navajos in 2004, and Navajo people have the lowest 5-year survival rate of any group in the country.\* Translated in Navajo as the “sore that does not heal,” cancer has been a taboo subject among Native people, who avoid speaking of the disease for fear of wishing it upon family and being rejected. The conference

- Increased cancer awareness, education, and advocacy.
- Provided resources to help patients and families make better treatment choices.
- Brought together new and existing services, including programs that help with earlier diagnosis, improve treatment, and provide better quality of life for cancer survivors and their families.

More than 330 cancer advocates attended the conference and learned much about local needs and solutions. Most attendees who were surveyed said the quality of the conference, speakers, and workshops was excellent or good, and they received information they could use and share with others.

The **Southwest Prostate Cancer Foundation (SWPCF)** received funding to broadcast a weekly radio show about cancer and other health issues, and to provide free prostate cancer screenings. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men and the second leading cause of death among men in Arizona.

The SWPCF created a network of speakers and developed the weekly radio show. It also worked with providers and health care organizations to provide free prostate cancer screenings.

*In Navajo, “cancer”  
translates as “the sore  
that does not heal.”*



\*Arizona Department of Health Services. Arizona Cancer Registry. Available at <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/phstats/acr/index.htm>.